

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4, 10-12 and 17-20 are amended. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing amended claims are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 are rejected.

Claims 3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15 and 16 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12, and 17-20 are pending and under consideration.

ITEM 2: REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY HOSOYA ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 5,544,009)

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 4, 10-12 and 17-18 are amended to clarify the invention. Claim 1 includes the subject matter of original claims 3 or 7 and 9. In addition, the "external member" recitation is amended to - - function expansion member - - throughout the claims; support exists in the specification, page 1, lines 9-11 and page 4, lines 23-25.

Hosoya's ejector is a pushing mechanism 22 that includes a push button 34, as shown in FIGS. 15-16. It is the Examiner's position that the ejector has a movable end that projects from the "insertion opening" (10) as recited in claim 1. However, this is incorrect.

In Hosoya, the push button 34 is outside the insertion opening (10), further, the function expansion member 11 is ejected from the insertion opening (10) when the push button 34, outside the insertion opening (10), is pressed.

By contrast, in amended claim 1, the function expansion member is ejected when the movable end that projects from the insertion opening is pulled, or "as the movable end moves in a direction separating from the insertion opening."

Therefore, Hosoya does not disclose the ejector recited in claim 1, and claim 1 is not anticipated by Hosoya and distinguishes patentably over the references and rejections of record.

All the remaining pending claims depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1 and, accordingly, inherit the patentably distinguishing features thereof and are likewise submitted to patentable.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: May 23, 2007

By: 
H. J. Staas
Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501